

DISLOCATION OF THE MALAR BONE.

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INJURIES of the malar bone are so rare, probably because of its position and firm attachments, that a pure dislocation has seemed worthy of report.

The patient, two weeks before coming under my observation, received a severe blow from the fist of an antagonist in a brawl. His eye was very much blackened and swollen, but no injury to the bone was at that time discovered. He came to inquire the meaning of a small lump immediately under the center of the orbit. It was about the size of a .22 bullet, and evidently bone. He also complained that movements of the jaws were very painful at the point where the coronoid process passed under the zygoma. A short examination proved that the prominence under the middle of the orbit was the maxillary process of the malar bone, which had been torn from its union with the superior maxilla, and now projected upward and inward. In order to produce this result the blow must have been an "upper cut," coming from the right hand of the other fighter. A slight depression could be felt where the zygomatic process of the malar joins the like named process of the temporal bone. The pain caused by the motion of the jaws is easily accounted for by the fact that the masseter, being in action, must necessarily disturb the dislocated malar bone; and possibly also by the coronoid process of the jaws rubbing against callus or inflammatory material at the union of the two zygomatic processes, since in its relations to the under side of the zygoma the coronoid process lies opposite this line of union.

I could not reduce the dislocation by any reasonable amount of force, and, as the only apparent deformity was the prominence under the eye, I advised that well enough be let alone, promising to cut down upon and shave the projecting maxillary process level with the bone, if the patient wished such an operation for cosmetic effect.

In looking over the literature of the subject I can find no reported case of simple dislocation of the malar bone. Hamilton says he can find no case of simple fracture unconnected with fracture of other facial bones. On dislocation of this bone he says nothing. Packard, in the *Encyclopædia of Surgery*, under the head of fractures of the malar, says they are very rare, and then refers to a case reported by Malgaigne, which, it seems to me, is clearly a case of dislocation. If so, then my claim to have seen no case reported is invalidated. He also says that a few cases are on record in which it has been separated from the adjoining bone by very great force. These cases, though obscurely reported, seem also to be dislocations, though the author is writing under the head of fractures of the malar bone.

However rare this injury may have been, we certainly have in this case an upward, forward and inward dislocation of the malar bone, exactly what might have been expected from the direction and point of application if the blow producing it had force enough to tear away the firm attachments of this bone.